CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CMT/CAPT
S C I E N C E

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
Archived Student Assessment News
June 18, 2015

Connecticut State Department of Education
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Smarter Balanced Testing Window Completion and Looking Ahead

The Smarter Balanced testing window closed on June 12, 2015. Information about the release of assessment results, including dates is located on page 1 of the memorandum sent by Commissioner Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell about Data Collection and Reporting Updates/Reminders.

Sample Connecticut Smarter Balanced Individual Student Reports for Grade 5, Grade 8 and Grade 11 are available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Web site. Student reports will be shipped to districts during the beginning of the 2015 – 16 school year. Additionally, the CSDE will provide schools with a parent brochure, "Explaining Your Child's Progress and How You Can Help," to accompany student reports. Districts will also receive district, school, and teacher communication resources for discussing assessment results.

Formerly known as performance levels, new assessment results will be reported as achievement levels. Levels will no longer be named as they were for CMT/CAPT (advanced, goal, proficient, etc.), rather they will be numbered. The Achievement Level Descriptors document contains more information.

CTAA Update

The first operational National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)/ Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) was administered between March 30 and May 15, 2015. Data for this assessment is being processed and standard setting will occur in August. The NCSC will guide participants in creating four performance levels, which each state in the collaborative will subsequently review. It is anticipated that several Connecticut educators with content and/or special education expertise will participate in this process. Since reporting is dependent upon the standard setting process student results for the NCSC/CTAA should be available in the fall of 2015.

2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Surveys

The CSDE appreciates feedback from district staff involved in the administration of the 2015 Smarter Balanced assessments. Three unique surveys are available to District Test Coordinators, Test Administrators/Teachers and Technology Coordinators. This feedback will be used to help the CSDE prepare and improve the administration of the assessments in 2016. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and share with appropriate colleagues.

District Test Coordinators Survey:
https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cRTHr9VwUZB3OZL

Test Administrator/Teachers Survey:
https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Ym0VMXGvmMMhY9

Technology Coordinators Survey:
https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pL9vnuqlMSVEIR

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The What, the How and the Why of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Workshops

The CSDE is offering one-day workshops designed to support Grade 3 – 8 classroom teachers, instructional specialists, coaches, English language arts and mathematics department chairs, and interested administrators as they become familiar with the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

Participants will learn how to:

- administer the Interim Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics;
- score student responses using anchor and training materials;
- use the Teacher Hand Scoring System;
- understand how to interpret student scores; and
- use student performance reports to support instruction and augment daily formative information to gauge student progress.

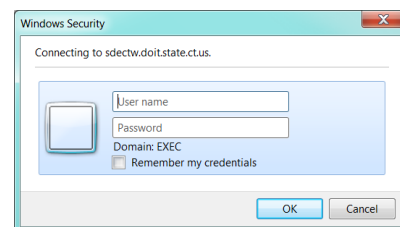Information about registering for the workshops is available on the CT Core Standards Web site. Contact Jennifer Webb at 860-713-6754/Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov or Deirdre Ducharme at 860-713-6859/Deirdre.Ducharme@ct.gov for additional information.

Test Security Incident Log Secure Upload Instructions

As noted previously in the *Student Assessment News*, all test security incidents should have been documented in a Test Security Incident Log to be provided to the CSDE at the end of testing. In addition, test security incidents that required specific actions to be taken regarding the test itself should have been escalated via the Appeals system in TIDE. **Districts should upload only ONE Test Security Incident Log containing information for all schools.** The log should be uploaded by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2015.

Instructions to Upload the District Test Security Incident Log:
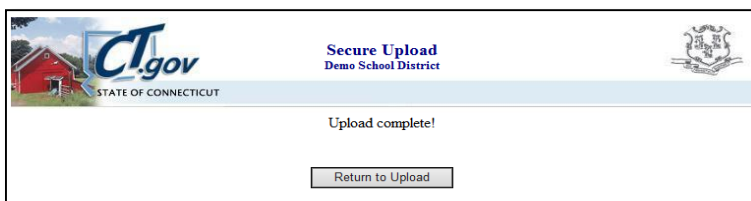
1. Go to https://www.csde.state.ct.us/districts/secureupload/
2. Enter the same user name and password your district/school uses to access other legacy CSDE applications such as PSIS and ED166. Contact Carla Ghostlaw at 860-713-6741 if assistance is needed.

3. After logging in, you will see the "Secure Upload" form. Complete the fields as follows:
   - **FIELD NAME: File Category**: Other
   - **FIELD NAME: Select File for Upload**: Click "Browse" to locate the file to upload. Then click "Open."
   - **FIELD NAME: E-mail Address**: Enter the e-mail address as abe.krisst@ct.gov.
   - **FIELD NAME: Message to be sent to recipient**: No message is necessary.

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4. Click on "Upload." The following screen will be displayed when the upload is complete:

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is committed to ensuring that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success. A balanced assessment system — which includes the formative assessment process as well as interim and summative assessments — provides tools to improve teaching and learning. The formative assessment process is an essential component of a balanced assessment system.

The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The Digital Library incorporates collaboration features providing educators opportunities to review resources using a rating system and share their expertise with colleagues across the country in online forums.

For more information about the Digital Library, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site. The Digital Library Factsheet outlines the innovative design and collaboration features. The formative assessment process is an essential component of a balanced assessment system.

Log into the Digital Library (www.SmarterBalancedLibrary.org) to see the new landing page and other enhancements that were recently released. The Important Notification section on the landing page lists the new features.